Tidal power projects

297. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tidal power potential of the country and the R&D efforts made by the Central Government in this regard;

(b) whether any project has been undertaken by the Government during Sixth and Seventh Plans; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) The tidal power potential identified in the country is of the order of 9000 MW, of which 800 to 1000 MW is in the Gulf of Kachchh, 7000 to 8000 MW in Gulf of Cambay and about 100 MW in various creeks in the Sunderbans. Detailed investigations and studies to establish the feasibility of a tidal power project in the Gulf of Kachchh were initiated during the Sixth Plan. These are nearing completion and the feasibility report is expected to be ready by March, 1988. Detailed investigations in the other two areas are not proposed at present.

Rural electrification in Bihar

298. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in Bihar which could not be provided with electricity till 31st March, 1987;

(b) whether any target has been fixed under rural electrification scheme to cover the backlog;

(c) if so, by when this is likely to be achieved;

(d) how the progress of work pertaining to rural electrification in Bihar compares with the work in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu; and

(e) what allocation has been made in the Seventh Plan for Bihar for rural electrification, indicating the targets; and how far the targets are likely to be achieved, giving reasons for the likely shortfall, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) 28437 villages in Bihar have not been electrified as at the end of March, 1987.

(b) For 1987-88, the Ministry of Programme Implementation has tentatively fixed a target of electrification of 3500 villages in Bihar.

(c) Bihar is likely to achieve cent per cent villages electrification by the end of 8th Plan depending upon the availability of the resources.

(d) The comparative progress of village electrification in the States Bihar, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu as on 28-2-1987 is given below:—

State	Total village	Villages electrified	% age level
Bihar	67566	37924	56·1
Maharashtra	35778	34248	95·7
U.P.	112561	70398	62·5
West Bengal	38074	21374	56·1
Tamil Nadu	15735	15711	100·0

*4 villages have been declared un-inhabited.